

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00148 062243Z
ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 SSO-00 /021 W
-----062248Z 096795 /63 61
O 062225Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 290

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0148

LIMDIS

S/S FOR CARTER LIAISON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: TECHNICAL VISIT

1. RESPONDING TO INVITATION OF U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM DURING DECEMBER CONTADORA ROUND, TECHNICAL TEAM WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON JANUARY 10. HEAD OF THE DELEGATION IS ARQ. EDWIN FABREGA; MEMBERS ARE DRS. FLAVIO VELASQUEZ AND OMAR JAEN, ING. ARNOLDO CANO (DIRECTOR, REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION PLANNING MINISTRY). ((GROUP WILL ARRIVE MIAMI SUNDAY, JAN. 9 AT 11:15 A.M. VIA PAN AM 586. IT WILL PROCEED WASHINGTON NATIONAL EITHER ON EASTERN NO. 192 (WAITLISTED), OR EASTERN 858 (FROM ORLANDO, CONFIRMED). DEPARTMENT PLEASE ARRANGE APPROPRIATE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND PORT COURTESIES. GOUP HAS MADE RESERVATIONS AT GEORGETOWN INN IN WASHINGTON.)) THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT ING. JAIME ARIAS WILL ACCOMPANY THE TECHNICAL GROUP, EVIDENTLY, AT TORRIJOS' REQUEST.

2. AS REPORTED JORDEN-BUNKER LETTER OF 12/23/76, TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING GROUP MAY BE SENT TO WASHINGTON DURING THE TECHNICAL TEAM'S VISIT AS A "POLITICAL BALANCE": AMB. DIOGENES DE LA
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ROSA AND DR. ROMULO ESCOBAR BETHANCOURT. VELASQUEZ ADVISED EMBOFF ON JANUARY 5 THAT WHETHER OR NOT THESE TWO WOULD GO WAS STILL UP IN THE AIR. EVEN IF THEY DO GO, THEY WOULD NOT JOIN THE OTHER PANAMANIAN IN SESSIONS WITH THE U.S. TECHNICAL GROUP.

3. VELASQUEZ ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD INTENDS

TO GO TO WASHINGTON ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 24, PROBABLY ACCOMPANIED BY CARLOS LOPEZ-GUEVARA. VELASQUEZ DID NOT KNOW WHOM BOYD THOUGHT HE WOULD MEET WITH ONLY FOUR DAYS AFTER THE INAUGURATION, BUT HE THOUGHT BOYD WOULD TRY TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER AND/OR SECRETARY VANCE.

4. PANAMANIAN TECHNICAL TEAM MEMBERS HAVE BEEN WORKING STEADILY TO PREPARE FOR TECHNICAL-LEVEL LANDS AND WATERS DISCUSSION. THEY APPEAR GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF THIS WORK AND PREPARED FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS DURING WASHINGTON STAY.

5. AS FABREGA INFORMED GEN. DOLVIN IN DECEMBER, THIS SAME GROUP HAS BEEN EMPOWERED TO ACT FOR PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM ON TECHNICAL MATTER OF FUNCTIONS OF FUTURE CANAL ENTITY (FOR WHICH PANAMANIAN TEAM USES RUBRIC "ADMINISTRATION"). ALL MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL TEAM APPEAR TO DISTINGUISH FAIRLY CLEARLY BETWEEN SUBJECTS OF ENTITY FORM AND ENTITY FUNCTIONS, AND ARE CONSCIOUS THAT FORMER SUBJECT IS NOT IN THEIR PURVIEW. THEY HAVE DONE SOME THINKING ON FUNCTIONS ISSUE, BOTH ON A LONG-STANDING BASIS AND MORE RECENTLY BASED ON DOLVIN-FABREGA SESSION ON SUBJECT DURING DECEMBER ROUND. THEY ARE ALSO FAMILIAR WITH--AND FREQUENTLY CITE--VARIOUS STUDIES SUCH AS KEARNEY REPORT ON PANCANAL ORGANIZATION PREPARED IN PAST YEARS BY PANCANAL; THEY WILL PROBABLY WISH TO REFERRED TO SUCH STUDIES AS DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE PROGRESS. HOWEVER, THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE DONE WHAT WE WOULD

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REGARD AS DETAILED STAFFING OF ISSUE. AS REPORTED JORDEN-BUNKER LETTER, TECHNICAL TEAM HAS SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-GROUP ON ISTHMUS--SOMEWHAT ALONG LINES OF SUMMER 1976 LANDS AND WATERS FACT-FINDING EXERCISE--TO INCLUDE PANCANAL AND SOUTHCOM. IT IS FAIRLY LIKELY THAT THEY WILL RAISE THIS IDEA AGAIN DURING TECHNICAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA00148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770006-0391
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770175/aaaacnoy.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c66fb8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3652181
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: TECHNICAL VISIT
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, PN, US, (FABREGA, EDWIN), (VELASQUEZ, FLAVIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c66fb8dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009